

# THE POSEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

By

Posey Circuit Court Judge James M. Redwine

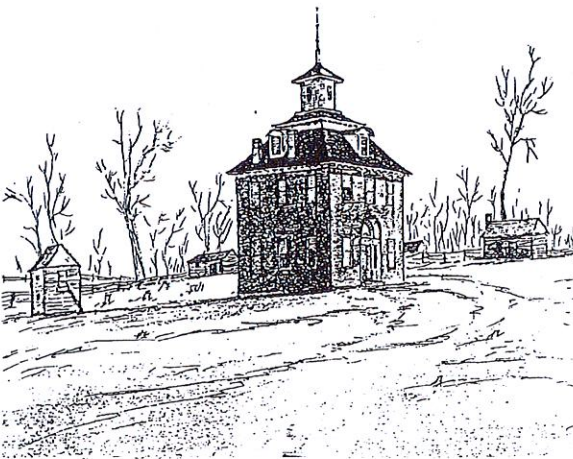
Our Courthouse is the iconic symbol of Posey County. Countless photographs, etchings, and paintings of our courthouse exist. When we think of a representative structure for Posey County we invariably envision our one hundred and thirty-six year old palladium of justice. But, our courthouse is much more than symbolic. It continues as a living venue for resolving conflicts and administering matters. Whereas Vanderburgh County built its “old” courthouse twenty years after ours was in full use and closed it in 1969, our courthouse remains an integral part of our legal system.



**The Posey County Courthouse today**

Posey County, also, has made use of other structures. Our first “courthouse” was the living room of Absolom Duckworth’s home (1815-1816). Then, at a cost of less than \$100.00, we built a one room courthouse near Caborn (1816-1817). And when Frederick Rapp, Father Rapp’s adopted son, offered free land for a new courthouse, we built one in Springfield (1817-1825).

When Indiana reorganized our counties and Mt. Vernon became the county seat (1825), we built a fine brick courthouse on the village square. This structure served us from 1825 to 1876 when it was razed and our current courthouse was built at a cost of \$99,000.00 on the same location.



**1825 Courthouse**

Although there have been numerous repairs, improvements and minor changes to our courthouse, it remains almost indistinguishable from the courthouse in which Alvin P. Hovey, John Pitcher and William Harrow practiced law.

John Pitcher loaned Abraham Lincoln his first law books then shared the same books with Alvin Hovey. William Harrow came to Posey County after he rode the law circuit with Lincoln in Illinois. Abraham Lincoln spoke at the dedication of the new bridge at Grafton in 1844 when he was campaigning for Henry Clay. And, when

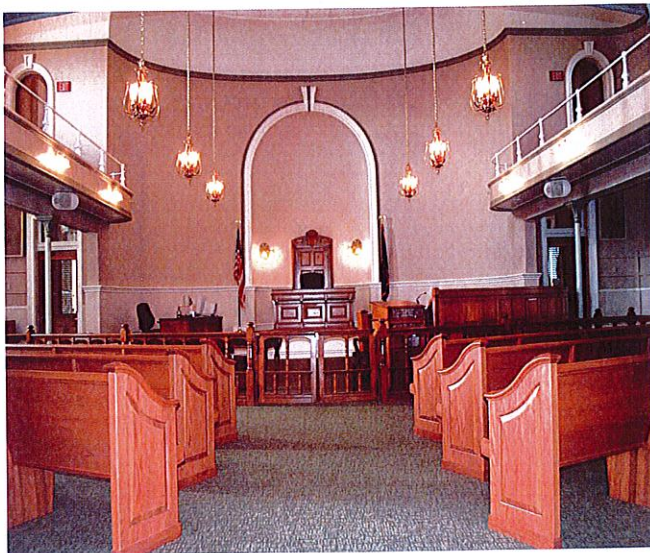


Lincoln became President, Hovey, Harrow and John Pitcher's son, Thomas, all became Union army generals.

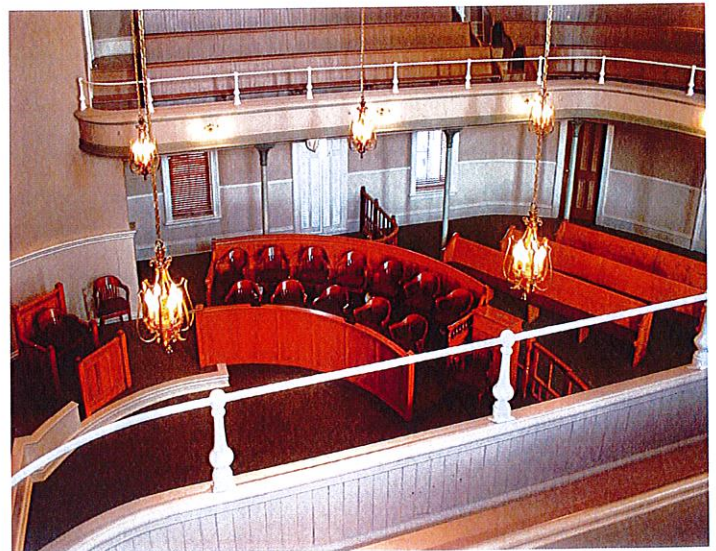
Perhaps the foresight of such citizens as Hovey, Pitcher and Harrow is captured in our beautiful and functional courthouse. As we totally refurbished it only six years ago, it appears our seat of justice will continue serving our citizens far into the future.



**A view from inside the Courtroom as it appears today**



**A view looking at the Judge's Bench**



**A view from the balcony**